

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for external management of a computer environment, the system comprising:

a first computer having a plurality of components;

a second computer connected to the first computer;

a plurality of microcontrollers that monitor components of the first computer;

a bus that interconnects the microcontrollers; and

a remote interface circuit that interfaces the microcontrollers with the second computer thereby facilitating the external management of the first computer components.

2. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the remote interface circuit includes an external port for connection to the second computer.

3. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the second computer is at the same location as the first computer.

4. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the second computer is at a location remote to the first computer.

5. The system defined in Claim 4, additionally comprising a pair of modems, wherein a first modem connects to the first computer and a second modem connects to the second computer.

6. The system defined in Claim 5, wherein each modem further connects to the public switched telephone network.

7. The system defined in Claim 5, wherein each modem further connects to a cable network.

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8. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the remote interface circuit includes a remote interface microcontroller that connects via the bus to the microcontrollers.

5 9. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the remote interface circuit includes a memory for storing results of monitoring the first computer components.

10 10. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the remote interface circuit includes a power source independent of the first computer.

11. The system defined in Claim 10, wherein the independent power source includes an AC to DC adapter.

12. The system defined in Claim 1, wherein the second computer is a handheld computer.

15 13. A system for external management of a computer environment, the system comprising:

20 a first computer having a plurality of components;  
a second computer connected to the first computer;  
means for monitoring components of the first computer; and  
means for interfacing the monitoring means with the second computer  
to facilitate the external management of the first computer components.

25 14. A remote interface, comprising:  
a microcontroller;  
a memory connected to the microcontroller;  
a first port capable of receiving and transmitting monitoring data; and  
a second port capable of receiving and transmitting monitoring data,  
wherein the second port includes connectivity to a microcontroller bus.

30 15. The remote interface of Claim 14, wherein the microcontroller bus is I<sup>2</sup>C.

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Sub (2)

16. The remote interface of Claim 14, wherein the microcontroller bus is Controller Area Network.

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The remote interface of Claim ~~14~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the monitoring data is stored in the memory.

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Sub (3)

18. The remote interface of Claim 14, wherein the first port receives a command from an external computer.

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The remote interface of Claim ~~18~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the command establishes security authorization.

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The remote interface of Claim ~~18~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the command requests data from the memory.

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The remote interface of Claim ~~18~~<sup>5</sup>, wherein the command sends data to the microcontroller bus.

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